

ORDINANCE No. 118337

COUNCIL BILL No. 111497

AN ORDINANCE relating to the date of runoff elections for the Civil Service and Public Safety Civil Service employee-elected Commissioners, amending SMC section 4.04.250 and 4.08.04

INDEXED

The City of Seattle--Legislative

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Honorable President:

Your Committee on _____

to which was referred the within Council Bill No. _____
report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend

COMPTROLLER FILE No. _____

Introduced: OCT 7 1996	By: KRAABEL
Referred: OCT 7 1996	To: FULL COUNCIL
Referred:	To:
Referred:	To:
Reported: OCT 14 1996	Second Reading: OCT 14 1996
Third Reading: OCT 14 1996	Signed: OCT 14 1996
Presented to Mayor: OCT 15 1996	Approved: OCT 21 1996
Returned to City Clerk: OCT 23 1996	Published: Full 2pg
Vetoed by Mayor:	Veto Published:
Passed over Veto:	Veto Sustained:

US5047

NO DISK

Full Council vote 8-0

Committee Chair

ORDINANCE 118337

AN ORDINANCE relating to the dates of runoff elections for Civil Service and Public Safety Civil Service Employee-Elected Commissioners, amending sections 4.04.250 and 4.08.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, SMC sections 4.04.250 and 4.08.040 provide that every three years there are elections for the employee-selected commissioners on the Civil Service Commission and the Public Safety Civil Service Commission, and said elections are to be held the week beginning the first Monday in November of the election year, and

WHEREAS, SMC sections 4.04.250 F and 4.08.040 F provide that if no candidate in an election receives a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election shall be held during the week beginning with the first Monday in December, and

WHEREAS, SMC sections 4.04.250 and 4.08.040 provide that the City Clerk shall administer the Civil Service and Public Safety Civil Service Employee-Elected Commissioner elections, including conducting the November election, certifying its results, determining whether a run-off election is necessary, publishing the required notice of a runoff election, printing and assembling ballot packages, and sorting and delivering ballot packages to departments for distribution with paychecks to all employees eligible to vote; and,

WHEREAS, it is extremely difficult for the City Clerk to perform all these duties between the November election and the current December runoff election date, particularly in some election years because of the way first Mondays fall in the months of November and December; and,

WHEREAS, the City Clerk can more effectively manage the elections and any necessary runoff elections if he/she has the authority to determine the date(s) for any necessary December runoff elections; and,

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.04.250, F (Ordinance 107790, Section 23, as last amended by Ordinance 112606, Section 2) is further amended as follows:

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4.04.250, F. Voting. The candidate receiving the majority of votes cast shall win the election. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest and next highest number of votes cast shall be candidates in a runoff election held during the week beginning on the first Monday in December at a date and time to be determined by the City Clerk. The runoff election be scheduled so that completion of balloting and certification shall occur before 5:00 p.m. on the last business day of December of the election year. Notice and voting shall be the same as for regular Commissioner's election.

Section 2. Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.08.040, F (Ordinance 107791, Section 4, as last amended by Ordinance 112606, Section 1) is further amended as follows:

4.08.040, F The candidate receiving the majority of votes cast shall win the election. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest and next highest number of votes cast shall be candidates in a runoff election held during the week beginning on the first Monday in December, at a date and time to be determined by the City Clerk. The runoff election be scheduled so that completion of balloting and certification shall occur before 5:00 p.m. on the last business day of December of the election year. Notice and voting shall be the same as for regular Commissioner's election.

Section 3. Any act consistent with the authority but prior to the effective date of this ordinance is hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by the Municipal Code section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the 14 day of October, 1996, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 14 day of October, 1996.

Jan DeLoach
President of the City Council

Approved by me this 21 day of October, 1996

Norman B. Rice
Norman B. Rice, Mayor

Filed by me this 23 day of October, 1996

Judith E. Papp
City Clerk

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October 3, 1996

Councilmember Paul Kraabel

Judith Pippin, City Clerk

Proposed Council Bill RE: Amendments to SMC sections related to
runoff dates for Civil Service and PS Civil Service elections

The attached Council Bill is presented to you for introduction at Full Council on Monday, October 7, 1996, and passage at Full Council on Monday, October 14, 1996.

This Council Bill amends the SMC to allow the City Clerk to determine the date of a runoff election for Civil Service and/or Public Safety Civil Service Commissioner elections, if one is needed.

Currently, the SMC provides that the initial election be held during the week beginning the first week of November, and if a runoff is needed, then said runoff is to be held the week beginning the first Monday in December. Further, in order to minimize distribution costs, ballots are distributed to employees along with their paychecks, on the payday just prior to the beginning of the election week.

This year in particular, and in certain subsequent years, the first Monday of November is November 4, the first Monday in December is December 2, and relevant payday is November 21. This allows only 12 business days between the final date of election week and the required date for beginning a runoff election, and only seven (7) business days between the final date of election week and the payday/ballot distribution date. This is not enough time to conduct necessary ballot tabulation and certification, order printing of new ballot materials, and get them packaged and delivered to employees in time to meet the requirement that the runoff election occur beginning December 2.

The flexibility this amendment provides will allow the Civil Service and Public Safety Civil Service elections to be conducted in a manner that continues to insure an effective employee election process.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions regarding this proposed Council Bill. You can reach me at 4-8361. Thank you.

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**CIVIL SERVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY CIVIL SERVICE ELECTIONS
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

Ballot Receipt and Tabulation Process

Sort ballot envelopes alphabetically	8 staff hours
Verify voter eligibility	40 staff hours
Troubleshoot problem ballot envelopes	10 staff hours
Open return mail envelopes, separate from ballot envelopes	12 staff hours
Separate ballot envelopes (Civ.Svc. vs. PS Civ.Svc.)	2 staff hours
Open ballot envelopes and remove ballots	12 staff hours
Sort ballots, tabulate	15 staff hours
Certify, notify affected parties	2 staff hours

If runoff election is needed:

Prepare new materials for printing	2 hours
Printing by contractor	2-3 days
Contract preparation for distribution (collating 5 pieces, stuffing, bundling)	3-4 days
Distribution to departments	1-3 days
Employee receives and returns ballot	(allow 2-5 days)
Repeat ballot receipt and tabulation process (above)	60-100 staff hours

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STATE OF WASHINGTON - KING COUNTY

73737
City of Seattle, City Clerk

—ss.

No. ORDINANCE IN

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:ORD 118337

was published on

11/01/96

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$, which amount has been paid in full.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

11/01/96

Notary Public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

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